

Application No. 09/599674
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-5605-US03

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 9-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,354,308 to Simon et al (Simon). or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious being over Simon; and claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Simon.

The following comments are presented in the same order and with headings corresponding to the Office Action

Claim Rejections Based Upon Prior Art

Claims 9-14 and 17

In the Office Action, claims 9-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Simon or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Simon.

In order to advance the prosecution of this applications, Applicants have amended instant claim 9 to include a recitation of "connectors being diagonal relative to the longitudinal axis" of the stent. Simon does not teach or suggest the presence of connectors that are non-parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent as the instant claims recite. As a consequence the rejection is respectfully overcome.

Claims 18-20

For the same reasons discussed above in regard to claim 9, Applicants have amended claim 18 to include the recitation of "connectors being diagonal relative to the longitudinal axis". Simon does not teach or suggest the presence of such a feature. The rejection is therefore respectfully overcome.

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Conclusion

In light of the above comments, claims 9-14 and 17-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

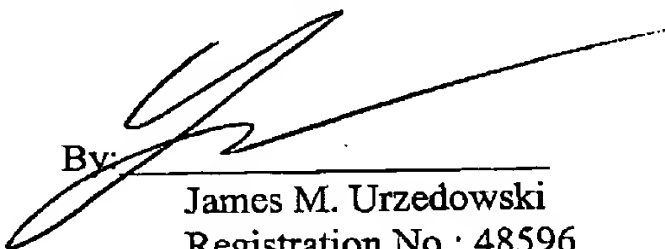
Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

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2/28/05

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